THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to delay in land acquisition by State Govt.

(c) By Dec., 98, if the land is made available.

Teak cultivation on Agricultural Land

*138. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more and more agricultural land is going under teak cultivation in the name of investment in Teak Bond, Teak Farms, etc;

(b) if so, the estimate of the area of land gone under such cultivation;

(c) whether this will not disturb the agricultural balance of the country; and

(d) the steps to be taken to discourage teak cultivation on agricultural land?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) No definite information is available on the use of agricultural land for teak cultivation.

(c) No, Sir. Total net area sown has been maintaining a rising trend.

(d) Does not arise.

Diversion of Kerala-Bound Trains after operation of Konkan Railway

*138. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to divert some Kerala-bound trains once the Konkan railway comes into operation; and

(b) if so, the name and number of trains proposed to be diverted?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) With the commissioning of Konkan railway, it is proposed to initially divert 6635/6636 Kurla-Mangalore/Cochin Netravati Express followed by 2431/2432 Hazarat Nizamuddin-Trivandrum weekly Rajdhani Express once the section stabilises for higher speeds. After completion of line capacity works on Diva-Panval and other adjoining sections, it is proposed to divert 6335/ 6336 Gandhidham-Nagercoil (weekly), 6337/ 6338 Rajkot-Cochin (weekly) and 6333/6334 Rajkot-Trivandrum (weekly) Expresses.

मिट्टी परीक्षण

***139. प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:**

(क) क्या देश की सम्पूर्ण कृषि भूमि की मिट्टी का परीक्षण करने हेतु सरकार की कोई योजना है;

(ख) क्या इस प्रयोजनार्थ प्रत्येक जिले में एक कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र खोले जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) इस योजना को कब तक कार्यान्वित किया जाएगा और इस पर कितना खर्च किया जाएगा?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र): (क) केवल केन्द्र शासित क्षेत्र चण्डीगढ़, दमन व दीव को छोड़कर, सभी राज्यों में 514 मृदा परीक्षण प्रयोगशालाएं स्थापित की जा चुकी हैं। इस समय उर्वरकों का संतुलित एवं समेकित उपयोग नामक एक योजना चल रही है, जिसके तहत विद्यमान मृदा एवं परीक्षण प्रयोगशालाओं को सुदृढ़ करने की व्यवस्था है। सरकार सभी पंचायतों में मृदा परीक्षण की व्यवस्था करने की योजना बना रही है। इसकी शुरूआत बिहार में स्व॰ डा॰ राजेन्द्र प्रसाद के जन्म दिवस, 3 दिसम्बर, 1996 को की जाएगी। मृदा परीक्षण का कार्य पश्चिम बंगाल के मिदनापुर जिले और मध्य प्रदेश के इन्दौर जिले में भी शुरू किया जाएगा।

(ख) और (ग) नए कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों को स्थापित करने का कार्य भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद के विचाराधीन है।

Procedure for procurement of fruits and vegetables by Mother Dairy

*140. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure adopted by Mother Dairy for procurement of fresh vegetables and fruits for supply to their booths in Delhi and hove their retail prices are fixed;

(b) the number of complaints received direct or through the booths regarding poor quality

of goods and higher prices charged as compared to those in the open market during 1996, so far; and

(c) the action taken' in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Fruit & Vegetable Project procures fruit & vegetable items by and large from growers associations/societies located in different states of India. However, in case of non availability of certain fruit & vegetable item or any logistic problem these are procured from wholesale market. The material thus procured is delivered by the growers at procurement centre in the area from where the material is transported to the Central Distribution Facility of project at Delhi.

Retail prices are fixed based on the grades and the prices prevalent in the various retail markets in Delhi.

(b) Fruit & Vegetable Project has received 178 complaints during the period January' 96 to 20th Nov., 1996 against quality and 39 complaints against high prices.

(c) All complaints were investigated by the Marketing staff of the Project. No complaint for higher price was found correct. Six Concessionaires were" removed on account of quality complaints which were mainly due to non-removal of left overs produced by the concessionaire from the display rack.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Completion and Cost of Konkan Railway Project

777. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the presentation of the last Railway Budget he had stated that the Konkan Railway Project will be completed by Ust October, 1996 but subsequently assured ie House that the project will be completed y 31st December, 1996;

(b) if so, the present status of the Project and by when it will be completed; and

(c) the initial cost estimate of the project and the anticipated cost on the completion of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been further set back to the project due to geological problems in tunnels in Goa area. The work is now expected to be completed by March, 1997.

(c) Initial cost of the project was Rs. 1073 crores and the anticipated cost as in March 1996 is Rs. 2230.42 crores.

Economic position of Railways

778. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways are running on profit;

(b) in which lines it is profitable and to which lines it is in loss;

(c) whether the fast running trains are profitable or in loss; and

(d) the amount of profit or loss for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Indian Railways as a whole have been generating surplus after meeting their total working expenses including appropriation to Depreciation Reserve Fund, Pension Fund and dividend liability.

(b) During the year 1994-95, 119 branch lines were found to be unremunerative incurring a loss of Rs. 165.73 crore.

(c) No statistics is maintained for fast running trains. On the basis of profitability analysis of passenger services carried out annually on Indian Railways the total losses are as under:—

(Rs in crore)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Mail Express			
Passenger	139.01	145.93	108.93
Ordinary			
passenger	1060.11	1105.45	1164.35